

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-5 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A data communication device for establishing data in communication with an external communication device, comprising:

a reply unit ~~for, if a request is issued from said external device, transmitting reply information corresponding to the request, and for storing~~ configured to transmit replay information corresponding to a request issued by the external device, and to store the reply information in a memory;

a connection monitoring unit ~~which monitors connection with said external device~~ connection configured to monitor a connection between the data communication device and the external communication device, the connection for transmitting the reply information from the reply unit; and

a transmission unit ~~which transmits~~ configured to transmit the reply information corresponding to the connection ~~with said external device and stored in said memory to said external communication device if~~ the transmission unit determines that the connection with said external device is has been abnormally cut off based on ~~the~~ a result of the monitoring by said connection monitoring unit.

2. (Currently Amended) The data communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reply information destruction unit which destroys the reply information stored in said memory if the replay information destruction unit determines that the connection with ~~said external device~~has been is normally released based on the result of the monitoring by said connection monitoring unit.

3. (Currently Amended) The data communication device according to claim 1, wherein

the reply information includes identification information for identifying the request from ~~said external device~~ is included in the reply information transmitted by said ~~reply unit~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A data communication method ~~for~~ establishing data communication with an external communication device, comprising:

~~a reply step of, if a request is issued from said external device, transmitting reply information corresponding to the request, and of storing the reply information in a memory;~~

~~a connection monitoring step of monitoring connection with said external device; and~~

~~a transmission step of transmitting the reply information corresponding to the connection with said external device and stored in said memory to said external~~

~~communication device if the connection with said external device is abnormally cut off based on the result of monitoring in the connection monitoring step~~

transmitting reply information from a first data communication device, the reply information corresponding to a request issued by a second data communication device,

storing the reply information at the first data communication device;

monitoring a connection between the first and second data communication devices, the connection for transmitting the reply information from the first data communication device; and

transmitting the reply information corresponding to the connection and stored at the first data communication device to the second data communication device as if it is determined that the connection has been abnormally cut off based on a result of the monitoring.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for storing computer executable instructions, which when executed on a computer, ~~cause~~ causes the computer to perform:

~~a reply step of, if a request is issued from said external device, transmitting reply information corresponding to the request, and of storing the reply information in a memory;~~

~~a connection monitoring step of monitoring connection with said external device; and~~

~~a transmission step of transmitting the reply information corresponding to the connection with said external device and stored in said memory to said external communication device if the connection with said external device is abnormally cut off based on the result of monitoring in the connection monitoring step~~

transmitting reply information from a first data communication device, the reply information corresponding to a request issued by a second data communication device,

storing the reply information at the first data communication device;

monitoring a connection between the first and second data communication devices, the connection for transmitting the reply information from the first data communication device; and

transmitting the reply information corresponding to the connection and stored at the first data communication device to the second data communication device as if it is determined that the connection has been abnormally cut off based on a result of the monitoring.